

8. The invention defined in Claim 7 wherein said powered drive assembly includes a hydraulic piston and cylinder.

9. The invention defined in Claim 7 wherein said automatic latching of said hitch points includes spring-loaded pins and latches. --

#### R E M A R K S

Claims 1 - 4 have been cancelled and replaced with new Claims 7 - 9. Claims 5 and 6 have been extensively amended to avoid the 35 U.S.C. §112 objections noted by the Examiner.

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 1, 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Merhar (US 5,419,673), Berghefer (US 5,014,452) or Knowlton et al (US 5,111,603) and the rejection of Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Staben, Jr. (US 5,403,144) or Barden (5,581,917) is respectfully requested. The present invention is best seen in the illustration shown in Figures 5A - 6B. Figures 5A and 5B show the attachment process, and Figures 6A and 6B show the detachment process. In Figure 5A, the first hitch connection is the lower pin or bar which is seated in the guide slot AGS as described at page 7 of the specification:

...the vehicle is lined up with the snowplow and the vehicle driven straight in until the lower pin LP contacts the arcuate lower pin LP guide slot AGS in the push beam pin receiver 204 and latch hook 205. The

A

electrical plugs EP are connected to the complementary electrical plug on the vehicle. This connects plow controls switches 40A to the hydraulic control system and toggle switch 16, when actuated, to control the operation of hydraulic lift cylinder 25. At this time, the spring pins 60A are turned by handle 64H 1/2 turn clockwise to disengage cocking pins 64B from notches 209 and allow the end of coupler spring pins 64A to bear on torsion spring 67 which is blocking the movement of the pin into latching position. Also, at this time, the toggle switch 16 is actuated. Then the raise button rocker switch 41 is pressed until the push beam spring receiver 204 engages torsion spring 67 and unblocks coupler spring pin 64A allowing them to snap into the latch hole LH in the push beam receiver 204 as shown in Figure 5B.

To disengage the hitch, reference is made to Figures 6A and 6B and the description at page 8, beginning at line 6, reading as follows:

To remove the snow plow from the vehicle, the plow is lowered with both wings or blades retracted to the Vee position and resting on the ground. Toggle switch 16 is moved to the top position and the raise button (42) control operated until the coupler tower 61 moves toward the vehicle and releases tension on the spring pins 64A. The handles 64H are used to pull the coupler spring pins outward and rotate to the open position into locking notches 209. The toggle switch 16 is moved to the down position. Then the raise button (switch 42) is actuated until the coupler tower 61 completely lowers the plow in the position shown in Figure 6B, the electrical plugs are disconnected (and dust plugs installed). The vehicle is now free of the plow and can be backed away slowly.

Merhar '673 discloses a quick disconnect apparatus for a tractor front loader in which a lever and cam mechanism actuates a pair of latching pins, but there is no drive assembly operating in a manner specified in applicant's claims.

In Berghefer '452, there is no drive assembly operating in the manner specified in applicant's claims.

In Knowlton et al '603, there is no drive assembly as specified in applicant's claims.

A

In Barden '917, the quick coupling device includes a hydraulic cylinder assembly 42, 34, 44 which is characterized as an adjustable link and in the abstract its adjustable link is "connected between the first and second hook arrangements and is adapted to apply a force to the hook arrangements to maintain engagement between the supporting pins and the recesses" which is not applicant's invention.


Staben, Jr. '144 relates to a blade tilt assembly for a front end loader in which hydraulic motors on each side of the attachment mechanism tilts the blade assembly to raise and lower the respective ends of the scoop in equal increments to thereby adjust lateral tilt of the scoop.

Thus, applicant respectfully submits that this prior art fails to teach or anticipate the invention, and further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. Since there are no prior art rejections made against Claims 5 and 6, and these claims have been amended to avoid the 35 U.S.C. §112 objections, these claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

A

In view of the above, further and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jim Zegeer, Reg. No. 18,957  
Attorney for Applicant

Attachment: Abstract of the Disclosure

Suite 108  
801 North Pitt Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Telephone: 703-684-8333

Date: June 30, 2000

In the event this paper is deemed not timely filed, the applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to Deposit Account No. 26-0090 along with any other additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper.

A